

## **Monitoring and Reporting Program for U.S. Forest Service Activities Enrolled Under Timber Waiver Categories 4 or 6**

### Overview

Monitoring is required for U.S. Forest Service projects enrolled in Timber Waiver Categories 4 and 6, pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The U.S. Forest Service shall satisfy the monitoring requirements for these categories through a combination of its *Best Management Practices Evaluation Program* (BMPEP) and project-specific implementation monitoring plans, or by complying with the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Timber Waiver. The monitoring requirements and forms for Timber Waiver Categories 4 and 6 are found in Attachments D, E, G, H, I, J, and L.

### Fall Implementation Monitoring Requirements

If the U.S. Forest Service does not use Timber Waiver fall implementation monitoring forms found in Attachments D or G, then U.S. Forest Service watershed staff shall create a project-specific fall implementation checklist that will be used by U.S. Forest Service personnel to verify that all BMPs are installed prior to the winter period (as defined in Attachment A) of any year of operations. This blank checklist shall be submitted to the Water Board with the project's Timber Waiver Category 4 or 6 application.

Fall implementation monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Water Board by **January 15** of each year. These reports shall include the completed BMP implementation checklist (or Attachment D or G) and identify any instances where BMPs were not implemented as required and any corrective action that was taken. If no corrective action was taken, but was identified as necessary, the U.S. Forest Service shall specify a schedule for corrective action to be completed.

### Daily Winter Monitoring and Winter Implementation Monitoring Requirements

All U.S. Forest Service projects enrolled under Categories 4 or 6 that propose winter period operations must conduct daily winter monitoring and Winter Implementation Monitoring (see below). If the U.S. Forest Service does not use the Timber Waiver Daily Winter Period Monitoring Checklist (Attachment E), then U.S. Forest Service watershed staff shall create an equivalent project-specific winter monitoring checklist that will be used by U.S. Forest Service personnel to verify that conditions are suitable for such activities. This blank checklist shall be submitted to the Water Board with the project's Timber Waiver Category 4 or 6 application. Winter monitoring checklists (or Attachment E) shall be submitted to the Water Board by **July 15** of each year that winter operations occur.

U.S. Forest Service projects enrolled under Categories 4 or 6 that proceed with winter timber harvest and vegetation management activities shall also complete winter implementation monitoring. If the U.S. Forest Service does not use Timber Waiver winter implementation monitoring form (Attachment H), the U.S. Forest Service watershed staff shall create an equivalent project-specific winter implementation monitoring checklist that will be used by U.S. Forest Service personnel at the conclusion of winter operations (or before April 1) to verify that all management measures designed to prevent sediment delivery and protect water quality are in place and secure. This monitoring shall be submitted to the Water Board by **July 15** of each year that winter operations occur.

#### Forensic and Effectiveness Monitoring Requirements

##### **Watersheds below Threshold of Concern and not tributary to any water listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List as impaired due to sediment**

In watersheds **that are not elevated above the TOC by project activities**, the Forest Supervisor's Office shall submit an annual BMPEP report for all activities on the Forest to the Water Board by **July 15** of each year to fulfill the forensic and effectiveness monitoring requirements of this waiver. If the BMPEP report identifies failed or ineffective BMPs for projects enrolled under the Timber Waiver, U.S. Forest Service staff shall submit a supplemental narrative that addresses when corrective action will be implemented.

##### **Watersheds at or above the Threshold of Concern or are tributary to any water listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List as impaired due to sediment (Projects enrolled in Waiver Category 6 only)**

In watersheds **that are at or above the TOC, or that will be elevated above TOC due to project implementation, or are in watersheds within or tributary to 303(d) listed waters impaired for sediment**, U.S. Forest Service watershed staff shall submit a monitoring report that utilizes the BMPEP protocols to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented BMPs for any Category 6 activities (U.S. Forest Service projects enrolled in Waiver Category 4 are not subject to this requirement). BMPEP protocols shall be applied at focused "high risk" sites as determined by U.S. Forest Service watershed specialists based on location (i.e., activities on steep slopes or in proximity to waterbodies) and activity risk factors (e.g., road, landing, and watercourse crossing construction) rather than on a random basis to assess the effectiveness of the applied BMPs. This report shall be submitted to the Water Board by **July 15** following each year of project activities to fulfill the forensic and effectiveness monitoring requirements of this waiver. If the focused monitoring utilizing BMPEP protocols identifies failed or ineffective BMPs, U.S. Forest Service staff shall submit a supplemental narrative that addresses when corrective action will be implemented.

The U.S. Forest Service BMP handbook can be found at the following link:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/publications/water\\_resources/waterquality/water-best-mgmt.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/publications/water_resources/waterquality/water-best-mgmt.pdf)

Chapter 15 of the handbook is the BMPEP user's guide.

Photo-Point Monitoring Requirements:

Photo-point monitoring (as described in Attachment L) is required if **any** of the following conditions exist within the plan or if Water Board staff specifically requests photo-point monitoring for particular areas of your plan (e.g., during application review, agency consultation, or site visit).

- ☐ Construction or reconstruction of a bridge crossing over a watercourse
- ☐ Construction or reconstruction of a watercourse crossing using a culvert that is 24 inches or greater in diameter

Photo-point monitoring shall be submitted with the relevant implementation monitoring report for the project (the submittal shall include before and after photos).

If evidence of sediment erosion and delivery to a waterbody are observed:

- ☐ Identify the waterbody and describe specific locations within or adjacent to the waterbody.
- ☐ Photograph the source of sediment and point of delivery to the waterbody and record photo monitoring using the Photo-Point Monitoring Form (Attachment L).
- ☐ Describe what and when corrective measures will be taken to stop sediment delivery and protect water quality.
- ☐ Report discharges to surface waters by telephone (530) 542-5400 no later than 24 hours after detection.